

**To:** Marci Todd[m1todd@blm.gov]; Raul Morales[rmorales@blm.gov]; Christopher Cook[cjcook@blm.gov]  
**Cc:** Timothy Smith[tsmith@blm.gov]; Kirk, James L[jkirk@blm.gov]  
**From:** Keleher, Barbara  
**Sent:** 2017-05-31T17:38:00-04:00  
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[Gold Butte National Monument Data Call - 1.docx](#)  
[Gold Butte National Monument Data Call - 2.docx](#)  
[Executive Summary Gold Butte National Monument.docx](#)

Hi and fyi - -

The 3 attachments below are Gold Butte NM's response to the Review. Lee is planning to wait until 4 pm today to post the info as he is also hoping to have concurrence from both Marci and Tim.

I am in the office so please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Barb

ph#: 861-6628

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Kirk, James (Lee)** <jkirk@blm.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, May 31, 2017 at 2:29 PM  
**Subject:** Gold Butte Data Call Documents  
**To:** Barbara Keleher <bkeleher@blm.gov>

Thanks,  
Lee Kirk  
Acting Monument Manager  
Gold Butte National Monument  
702 515 5026

**Call for Data Related to Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

Please help us gather information about each of the items listed below, for each of the National Monuments listed below in Table 1.

- 1) Documents Requested
  - a) Resource Management Plans/Land Use Plans
    - i. Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM) has not yet initiated a Resource Management Plan (RMP). The 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be followed in the interim. A PDF document of the Las Vegas RMP/Record of Decision has been uploaded to the Google Drive (LV\_RMP\_ROD\_1998.PDF).
  - b) Record of Decision
    - i. GBNM has not yet initiated a RMP. The 1998 Las Vegas RMP will be followed in the interim. A PDF document of the Las Vegas RMP/Record of Decision has been uploaded to the Google Drive (LV\_RMP\_ROD\_1998.PDF).
  - c) Public Scoping Documents
    - i. Public scoping has not yet been initiated for a GBNM RMP. The first public comment period post-designation associated with GBNM is the DOI Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment.
  - d) Presidential Proclamation
    - i. A PDF document of the Gold Butte Presidential Proclamation (December 28, 2016) was uploaded to the Google Drive (Gold Butte Presidential Proclamation 2006.pdf).
- 2) Information on activities permitted at the Monument, including annual levels of activity from the **date of designation to the present (Designation date for GBNM is December 28, 2016 - information is not yet available for most of FY17)**
  - a) Recreation - annual visits to site
    - i. The BLM uses the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) to report visitor use. GBNM is a subset of the Las Vegas Field Office. Full reporting for annual visitation 2017 will not be available until the end of September. A PDF document of the visitor use data for 2011-2016 for the Gold Butte area has been uploaded to the Google Drive (GBNM Visitor Use Data 2012-2016 (RMIS).pdf).
    - ii. Specific visitation information to the GBNM is not available at this time.
  - b) Energy - annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)
    - i. There has been no coal, oil, gas, or renewable production within the GBNM since the designation. There is no energy transmission infrastructure within GBNM.
  - c) Minerals - annual mineral production on site
    - i. There has been no mineral production within the GBNM since designation.
  - d) Timber - annual timber production on site (in board-feet, CCF, or similar measure)
    - i. Commercial seed collection (managed under the forestry program), is allowed and permitted in areas in the GBNM that are not in desert tortoise critical habitat. 2017: 700 lbs of globemallow.
  - e) Grazing - annual grazing on site (AUMs permitted and sold)

- i. **Mesquite Community Allotment (AZ04832):** currently administered by the Arizona Strip Field Office. Approximately 131 AUMs have been billed based on the acreage of the allotment within the Gold Butte NM from 12/29/2016 to 5/30/2017.
  - i. **Lime Spring Allotment (AZ02012):** currently administered by the Arizona Strip Field Office. No application for grazing has been received or approved for the Lime Spring Allotment since the date of monument designation 12/28/2016. Zero AUMs have been authorized or billed since monument designation through the present 5/30/2027.
- f) **Subsistence - participation rates for subsistence activities occurring on site (fishing, hunting, gathering); quantities harvested; other quantifiable information where available**
  - i. The GBNM provides for the collection of certain natural materials by Native American Indians, including firewood, under a BLM permit. Information regarding firewood collection is included under the discussion of timber production.
  - ii. The GBNM is open to hunting and fishing, which is regulated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This data would be available from the Nevada Department of Wildlife.
- g) **Cultural - list of cultural uses/values for site; number of sites; other quantifiable information where available**
  - i. The GBNM includes important cultural values. Local tribes, particularly the Moapa Tribe whose homeland covered the monument, use the monument for ceremonies and to visit sacred sites. Traditions of hunting is still practiced by tribal members, as is collection of medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible herbs, and materials for crafting items like baskets and footwear. The BLM issues free use permits for collection of materials for ceremonial purposes.
  - ii. According to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (NV SHPO) database and the BLM GIS Cultural data, there are 614 recorded archaeological sites and potentially five archaeological districts, or densely clustered large prehistoric and historic sites within the bounds of the monument.
  - iii. More than 60 percent of these sites are prehistoric (pre-dating the 1800s) and contain rock art, rock shelters, roasting pits, ceramics stone tools, and prehistoric trails. Many contain datable remains such as thermal features (hearths) and storage features. Historic sites include a historic mining town, concentrations of historic features and debris, including roads, fences, and evidence of mining activities. Mines in the area date from World War I and II.
  - iv. The BLM has not completely surveyed the monument. Between 2006 and 2008, when the Gold Butte area was surveyed for cultural resources, about 19,212 acres was subjected to sample survey, followed by a non-random survey of approximately 11,984 acres. The total percentage of acreage that has been surveyed for cultural resources is about 10 percent.
- 3) **Information on activities occurring during the 5 years prior to designation**
  - b) **Recreation - annual visits to site**
    - i. The BLM uses the RMIS to report visitor use. GBNM is a subset of the Las Vegas Field Office. A PDF document of the visitor use data for 2012-2016 for the Gold Butte area has been uploaded to the Google Drive (GBNM Visitor Use Data 2012-2016 (RMIS).pdf).

- c) Energy - annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)
    - i. There has been no production of coal, oil, gas or renewables 5 years prior to designation. There is no energy transmission infrastructure within GBNM.
  - d) Minerals - annual mineral production on site
    - i. There was no production of minerals 5 years prior to designation. The area was closed to mineral materials in the 1998 Las Vegas RMP and was withdrawn to mineral entry in 2002.
  - e) Timber - annual timber production on site (in board-feet, CCF, or similar measure)
    - i. Commercial seed collection (managed under the forestry program), is allowed and permitted in areas in the GBNM that are not in desert tortoise critical habitat. 2013: 2,000 lbs of globemallow.
  - f) Grazing - annual grazing on site (AUMs permitted and sold)
    - i. **Mesquite Community Allotment (AZ04832):** currently administered by the Arizona Strip Field Office. Authorized use based on grazing bills in Rangeland Administration System (RAS) and adjusted by the acreage (13%) within the GBNM.
      - 10/1/2016 – 12/28/2016 = 76 AUMs
      - 3/1/2016 – 5/30/2016 = 78
      - 10/1/2015 – 2/28/2016 = 129
      - 3/1/2015 – 6/1/2015 = 80
      - 10/1/2014 – 2/28/2015 = 129
      - 3/1/2014 – 6/30/2014 = 105
      - 10/1/2013 – 2/28/2014 = 129
    - ii. **Lime Spring Allotment (AZ02012):** currently administered by the Arizona Strip Field Office. Authorized use based on grazing bills in RAS.
      - 2016: 155 AUMs (ephemeral)
      - 2015: No bill – zero AUMs
      - 2014: Non-use – zero AUMs
      - 2013: 173 AUMs (ephemeral)
      - 2012: 173 AUMs (ephemeral)
      - 2011: 190 AUMs
  - g) Subsistence - participation rates for subsistence activities occurring on site (fishing, hunting, gathering); quantities harvested; other quantifiable information where available
    - i. The monument does provide for the collection of certain natural materials, under BLM permit.
  - h) Cultural - list of cultural uses/values for site; number of sites; other quantifiable information where available
    - i. See response to 2.g.
- 4) Information on activities that likely would have occurred annually from the date of designation to the present **if the Monument had not been designated**

(b) (5) - DPP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- a) Recreation - annual visits to site



- i. The public process preceding designation is outlined in the Fast Facts and Q&A regarding GBNM. A PDF document of the Fast Facts and Q&A was uploaded to the Google Drive (Fast Facts and Q&A.pdf).

**7) Terms of Designation**

- i. Refer to the Gold Butte Presidential Proclamation for the terms of designation. A PDF of the Gold Butte Presidential Proclamation was uploaded to the Google Drive (Gold Butte Presidential Proclamation 2006.pdf).

Table 1. List of National Monuments Included in Review (per DoI Press Release dated May 5, 2017)

National Monument	Location	Managing Agency
Basin and Range	Nevada	BLM
Bears Ears	Utah	BLM, USFS
Berryessa Snow Mountain	California	USFS, BLM
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	BLM
Carrizo Plain	California	BLM
Cascade Siskiyou	Oregon	#N/A
Craters of the Moon	Idaho	NPS, BLM
Giant Sequoia	California	USFS
Gold Butte	Nevada	BLM
Grand Canyon-Parashant	Arizona	BLM, NPS
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	BLM
Hanford Reach	Washington	FWS, DOE
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	BLM
Mojave Trails	California	BLM
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	BLM
Río Grande del Norte	New Mexico	BLM
Sand to Snow	California	BLM, USFS
San Gabriel Mountains	California	USFS
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	BLM
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	BLM
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	BLM
Katahdin Woods and Waters	Maine	NPS
Marianas Trench	CNMI/Pacific Ocean	FWS
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts	Atlantic Ocean	NOAA, FWS
Pacific Remote Islands	Pacific Ocean	FWS
Papahānaumokuākea	Hawai'i/Pacific Ocean	NOAA, FWS
Rose Atoll	American Sāmoa/Pacific Ocean	FWS

**New Information Requested on Executive Order on the Review  
of Designations Under the Antiquities Act**

**BLM Responses to Additional Questions for Gold Butte National Monument**

- a) Any legislative language, including legislation in appropriations bills

There is no legislation regarding the Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM).

- b) Alternative options available for protection of resources applicable at each monument, such as Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Historic Preservation Act and agency-specific laws and regulations.

(b) (5) - DPP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- b) Designated wilderness areas (name, acreage), Wilderness Study Areas (name if there is one, acreage, type), and/or areas managed to preserve wilderness or roadless characteristics that are not WSAs.

- Lime Canyon Wilderness - 24,156 acres
- Jumbo Springs Wilderness - 4,631 acres
- Million Hills Wilderness Study Area - 22,604 acres
- Virgin Mountain Instant Study Area - 5,850 acres

- c) Outstanding R.S. 2477 claims within a monument – type of road claimed and history

There are R.S. 2477 roads within GBNM, but there are no known outstanding claims. The BLM is working with the local County to draft a cooperative agreement to maintain some of the roads within GBNM.

- d) Maps



A PDF map of GBNM has been uploaded to the Google Drive (Gold Butte National Monument Map.pdf)

- e) Cultural or historical resources, particularly Tribal, located near a monument but not within the boundary that might benefit from inclusion in the monument

The Moapa tribe considers GBNM their homeland and have expressed interest in the management of the area.

- g) Other – general questions or comments

**Language clarification:** The Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation states the following regarding livestock grazing: “Livestock grazing has not been permitted in the monument area since 1998 and the Secretary shall not issue any new grazing permits or leases on lands within the monument.”

There are active grazing allotments that are administered by the Arizona Strip District within the GBNM. The allotments have been authorized since 1998. Clarifying the language in the Presidential Proclamation could address the grazing allotments administered Arizona Strip District in GBNM. BLM-Nevada can provide additional information on request. A PDF document of the grazing allotments administered by the Arizona Strip District within the GBNM has been uploaded to the Google Drive (Grazing Allotments Map.pdf).

There was an oversight regarding livestock grazing in the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation because

## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Gold Butte National Monument**

Gold Butte National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on December 28, 2016. Prior to designation, the area was managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (285,158 acres) and Bureau of Reclamation (11,779 acres) and continues to be following designation. The BLM manages for multiple use within the Monument (hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing, and valid existing rights such as oil production, etc.), while protecting the vast array of historic and scientific resources identified in the Proclamation and providing opportunities for scientific study of those resources. The resources identified in the Proclamation include the threatened desert tortoise, the once-thought-extinct relic leopard frog, archaeological sites and important areas of spiritual significance to American Indian tribes, historic ranching and mining sites, rare plants such as the Las Vegas buckwheat and Las Vegas bearpoppy, dinosaur tracks, and a large sink hole. Overall, multiple use activities are allowed in Gold Butte National Monument that are compatible with the protection of resources and objects identified in the Presidential Proclamation. Multiple use activities are subject to decisions made in current and future BLM resource management planning efforts which include public participation. National Monuments and other conservation areas managed by the BLM continue to allow for multiple uses according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (depending on proclamation language).

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

Beginning in 2008, when Representative Shelley Berkley (D-1-NV) first introduced legislation to establish a more than 350,000-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area, legislation to provide lasting protection for the larger Gold Butte area has been introduced repeatedly. Most recently, in 2015 Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Representative Dina Titus (D-1-NV) introduced S. 199 and H.R. 856, the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act. On a number of occasions, including in a floor speech on April 7, 2016, Senator Reid stated his desire that the President use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Gold Butte area. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and BLM Director Neil Kornze attended a public meeting hosted by Senator Reid and Representative Titus on February 18, 2015, to hear from the public about protection and conservation of Gold Butte and other areas in Southern Nevada. Many members of the overflow crowd of more than 300 people spoke in support of protecting the Gold Butte area, including representatives from local tribal nations, the travel and tourism industry, local business owners, recreationists, professional and amateur scientists, and state and local elected officials. In 2011, at the request of Senator Reid, then-Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes and Director Kornze (while serving as Senior Advisor to the BLM Director) traveled to the area to witness firsthand its natural and cultural values. During that trip, Deputy Secretary Hayes and Director Kornze held a meeting in Mesquite, Nevada, where they and approximately 50 local citizens, elected officials, and conservation advocates discussed

possible protection for the Gold Butte area. Later that year, Deputy Secretary Hayes held a roundtable at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce where local elected and appointed officials and stakeholders discussed the economic benefits that could be generated by national recognition of Gold Butte and other public lands in the region.

#### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

No public scoping has been conducted for GBNM.

#### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

Since designation, the BLM-Las Vegas Field Office has developed informational materials including maps, brochures, and website material for GBNM. A Gold Butte Public Information Forum was conducted in Mesquite and included a short presentation that was followed by a question-and-answer period. A portal sign design was developed and approved, and three portal signs have been installed at major access points along the GBNM boundary. There have been multiple volunteer activities including seed collection, habitat restoration, sign installation, and marking of designated routes. The BLM-Las Vegas Field Office has received \$1.7 million through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) to complete a Historic Properties Treatment Plan to protect three important cultural resource complexes within GBNM. The National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program awarded \$49,768 to the BLM for assistance agreements with Northern Arizona University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas to research, inventory, and assess the diverse plant communities within GBNM.

#### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

These lands have been managed according to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, which includes multiple-use management objectives. BLM lands that are within the monument were managed with some level of a protective designation either under the existing land use plan such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or as designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. The GBNM is completely overlapped by ACECs. There has been no change in day-to-day management since designation of GBNM.

#### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

Economic information has not been developed for GBNM because of its recent designation.

#### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

There have been no boundary adjustments to GBNM since the designation.